

## ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SESSION

## LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 37

Introduced by Hudkins, 21; Dierks, 40; Dubas, 34; Engel, 17; Erdman, 47; Hansen, 42; Karpisek, 32; McDonald, 41; Pedersen, 39; Rogert, 16; Stuthman, 22; Wallman, 30

WHEREAS, since Congress passed the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) in 1991, the total length law of the State of Nebraska for combination vehicles was frozen at sixty-five feet; and

WHEREAS, today, grain elevators and agriculture producers alike are faced with serious transportation challenges, including sustained record fuel prices, transporting commodities longer distances to terminal markets or processing facilities, and the lack of interest or capacity by railroads to haul grain; and

WHEREAS, other states maintained their longer combination truck lengths under the 1991 federal act; and

WHEREAS, while each state varies on its laws, rules, and regulations on operating longer vehicles, some states have either adopted or maintained the standards of eighty-one feet, six inches, off of interstate highways, and one hundred ten feet on interstate highways; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska beet growers have benefited for some time under a federal exemption that allows combination truck lengths at eighty-one feet, six inches; and

WHEREAS, last year Nebraska custom harvesters obtained

a federal exemption to allow the State of Nebraska to permit the operation of commercial vehicle combinations not exceeding eighty-one feet, six inches.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. The Legislature supports an immediate review of the current federal ISTEA restrictions imposed on Nebraska which prohibit extending the length of combination vehicles and an examination of the feasibility for seeking a federal exemption that would allow extended combination truck lengths for purposes of hauling corn, wheat, soybeans, sorghum, millet, dry beans, and any other grain as defined by law.

2. The Legislature invites the grain warehouse and feed industry, trucking industry, farm commodity organizations, and state and local government representatives, representatives from the Department of Roads, the Nebraska State Patrol, the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Agriculture, and the Nebraska Safety Council to examine all practical issues surrounding any combination vehicle extension in Nebraska and to examine applicable laws, rules, and regulations in states already permitting extended lengths.

3. The Clerk of the Legislature shall send copies of this resolution to the Nebraska congressional delegation, the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and President George W. Bush.